

EXHIBIT

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Feb 3, 09

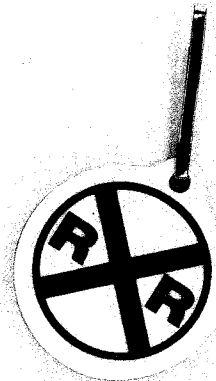
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Diana L. Seider, Director

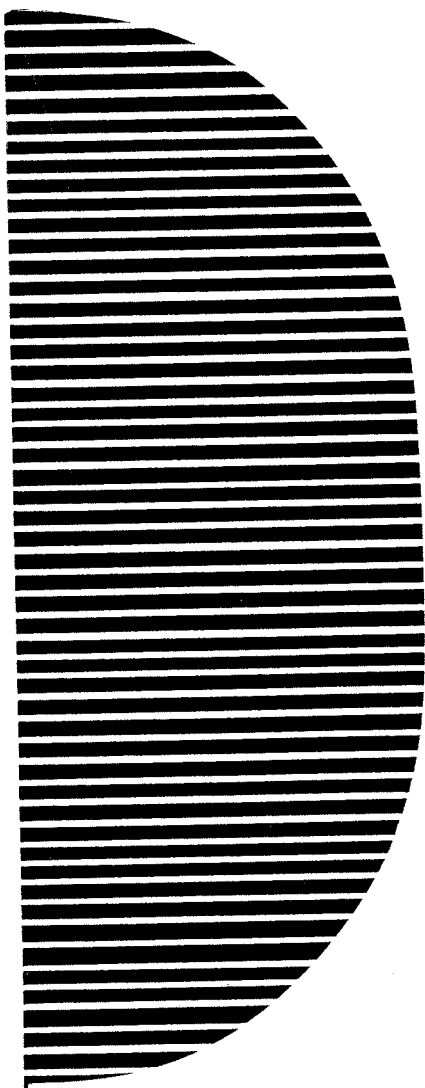
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 **MONTANA**
RAIL LINK





Members of the Legislature's Long-Range Planning Committee:

Chairman, Rep. Dave Kasten, Brockway; Vice chair, Sen. Greg Barkus, Kalispell; Rep. Dennis Getz, Glendive; Rep. Walter McNutt, Sidney; Rep. Jon Sesso, Butte; Sen. John Brueggeman, Polson; Sen. Mike Cooney, Helena; Sen. Carol Williams, Missoula.

Mister Chairman, members of the Committee, thank you for this opportunity to appear before you today. For the record, my name is **Diana Seider, Director of the Livingston Depot Foundation**. I am here with Livingston artist, **David Swanson** and three Park Co. students who will testify on the importance of the Montana Cultural Trust grants programs, and on behalf of the **Special Project exhibition "Sweat and Steel": an art, educational and cultural traveling exhibition and outreach program**, Grant Number **1427...**

[Jon Jon McEvans, Claree Tecca, Holden Sieler make their presentations...]

These three Park Co. students have all participated in programs--one of which I taught--funded by the Cultural Trust grants.

I, too, am glad and gratified when people appreciate my work, especially when it's about a subject that I am passionate about. These RRer paintings of mine [indicate paintings in room] are part of a larger series I'm doing for an exhibition sponsored by the Livingston Depot Center, called "Sweat and Steel." It is about Montana's railroad workers. It's really dedicated to them as an affirmation of their importance to our state and its heritage. So many people in so many towns across Montana have been, or are, involved with railroading, (that) it's easy to see that these pictures are *relevant* to a good number of folks. [Holden reads excerpt of letter here.] These paintings are *relevant* to the rest of us, too, as they call attention to the human element in this industry, the *men and women who do the work* of railroading. I want audiences to connect with this reality; to see railroad work not just as what was, but what is. I want to affirm the importance of it; to let people know in the far flung railroad communities of the state, that we know they are there, and we appreciate their contribution to our culture.

I hope to connect with them and the young people in those places by involving them in the "Young Artists" workshops, which I plan to hold in every community that hosts "Sweat and Steel." So, like these young people with us today, others will be inspired to spread their creative wings. That's the magic of these Trust dollars, how they extend their value over time and across distance. We believe that traveling this exhibit is *essential* to its concept and design.

We are most grateful to the Committee for recommending "Sweat and Steel" for funding. We will do all we can to leverage these dollars by vigorously pursuing additional private

and in-kind donations. However, when we submitted our grant application to you, we had not yet presented "Sweat and Steel" to the Museum Art Gallery Directors Association (MAGDA). As a result of our presentation to that group in October, three other museums signed up for the exhibit, and three more were very interested, but held back because they were concerned about the costs of transporting it. We strongly feel that *additional funding* is needed from the Cultural Trust in order to mount and travel this exhibit--for materials, crating, freight, publicity--so that we can get it to those venues which want it, and have committed to it. Traveling the exhibit will positively *extend the investment dollars* and *maximize public value* well beyond a showing at a single venue

Here's the thing: We applied for \$24,000, and that was a carefully budgeted, realistic figure. You recommended us for \$5000, for which we are truly grateful. However, if we are to get these paintings, this exhibit, to Anaconda, Miles City, Sidney, and other towns, we need more money. We believe that these seed monies from the Cultural Trust, working with other types of funding for this project, will ultimately yield a substantial *return on the investment*.

Art must be a shared experience, through which we are really sharing life with each other. I believe "Sweat and Steel" can be a life sharing experience. Please help us make this a reality by supporting it with additional funding. Thank you very much for your time, and your thoughtful consideration of our request.

- to the members of the Long-Range Planning Joint Committee,
Rep. Dave Kasten, Chairman
- on Livingston Depot Foundation's
Application for Special Project Funding
Grant Number 1427 "Sweat and Steel"

I have worked with and guided groups through the Livingston Depot Center since the mid-1990s.

I believe that the traveling exhibit "Sweat and Steel" would have an important public value in Montana. Modern, familiar Montana is largely the product of railways that for nearly 130 years have carried the state's products of farms, mines, and forests. The workers who run trains, maintain equipment, and manage operations keep this vital network going and are largely unseen and unacknowledged. This exhibit can educate the public, and deserves your support.

Dale Martin

Dale Martin, Instructor in History

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Philosophy**

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